CHAPTER XXXH

TRAFALGAR AND AUSTERLITZ *

The English Navy —Villeneuve's Plight — Preliminary Manceu-vers — The Attack off Trafalgar — Victory of the English — Suicide of Villeneuve — The Effects of the Battle — Prussia and the Continental Campaign — Napoleon's March to Vienna — The Combat near Hollabrunn — Napoleon's Situation — The Czar Decides for Battle —The Struggle for Position — Plans of the Antagonists — The Eve of Conflict — The Battlefield of Austerlitz — The Struggle for Pratzen — The Allies Overwhelmed — Napoleon and Francis — Conduct of the Czar — The Fighting at Austerlitz — The New Tactics.

IN spite of Villeneuve's retreat to Cadiz, Great Britain was by no means sure of her naval superiority. The French had fought bravely at the battle of the Nile; Nelson, though not exactly outwitted in the chase to the West Indies and back, had failed to catch his opponent, who had escaped a second time without serious loss. In the administration of the admiralty there had been great slackness, except during Barham's short term; and it is now generally agreed that the navy was not highly efficient. Every official except Admiral Collingwood was totally in the dark as to the enemy's plans, and even he was correct only in one surmise, the

1 In addition to the references given, see the works of Burke, also the volumes of Alembert and Colin, of SchSnhals, and of Rtistow on the war of 1805; the Diaries of Sir G. Jackson; Bernhardi: " Denkwtirdigkeiten " of Count Lieutenant-G6ne*ral Comte Friant; Ch&iier: Histoire de la vie naili-taire, politique et administrative du MarSchal Davout; Bernard: Art de la Guerre; Yorck von Wartenburg: Napoleon als Feld-herr; Dodge: Napoleon, Toll; Friant: Vie militaire du